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THE OBSERVATOR.

A further Account of Arch-Biſhop Laud.

From **Wednesday** June the 28th, to **Saturday** July the 1ſt, 1704.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, now ſurely you'll be as good as your Word, won't you? And let me hear a little more of the *Pinnacle* High Prieſt Laud.

Obſ. I muſt be as good as my Word, tho' to my Prejudice; you know by what I have ſaid of Laud already, I have ſet all the *High-Flyers*, the Bulls, the *Buzzards*, the *Gooſe-Hawks* and other Birds of Prey a peckingout my Brains; and muſt I go on till I am quite Lead?

Country-m. Yes you muſt, for the Cauſe of Truth often requires it. Look'ye, Maſter *Obſervator*, you have done the fair thing; you did not begin the Quarrel; the *High-Flyers* rais'd up Laud from the Dead as a Saint and Martyr, and you have ſhow'd him to the World both a Sinner and a Papiſt. Now the ordinary ſort of People would have taken him as he was Repreſented by the *High-Flyers*, if you had not pluck'd off his Vizor and ſhown him in his proper Shapes. Now this is but common Charity to Mankind, and I believe the ſame Perſons that cry up *Laud* would do the ſame by *Jefferies*, *Kirk*, *Burton*, *Graham*, *Brent* and others, their good Friends in the Reign of King *James*, if they did not think the Nation ſtill remember'd their Villanies.

Obſ. This is true enough; and 'tis my Buſineſs to ſet things of this Nature in a true Light, that my Fellow Natives who have not Time and Leiſure to Read large Volumes, may not be Impoſ'd upon by the Enemies of the Nations Peace. A precious Saint indeed was *Laud*, if we conſider how Induſtriouſly he promoted the Book of Sports and *Paſtimes* on the Lords own Sacred Day, after Divine Service ended; which tended to the Diſhonour of *God* and *Religion*, to the Diſturbance of the *Civil Government*, the Encreaſe of all *Licentiouſneſs*, *Prophaneſs* and *Impiety*. This Book he enjoyned all Miniſters to Read and Publiſh openly in the Church in Time of Divine Service, without any Command or Authority from the King for ſo doing; and thoſe, who out of Conſcience refuſed to Read it in this manner, were by his means Suſpended, Excommunicated, Proſecuted in the *High Commiſſion*, and Sequeſtered from their Livings; many of them left their Cures and the Kingdom, and went into Foreign Parts.

Yet ſuch, ſays a juſt Hiſtorian, *was this Arch-Prelates unparalel'd Impiety, tranſcending all Examples in former Ages, that he not only cauſed his Inſtruments*, Edmond Reeve, *Doctor* Heylin, Chriſtopher Dowe *and others, to defend the Lawfulneſs of this Prophane Licencious Uſage, but alſo to Juſtifie the Perſecution, Silencing, Suſpending, Depriving of thoſe Godly Miniſters, who, out of Conſcience, refuſed to Publiſh it; in ſundry Printed Books Authorized by him and his Chaplains for the Preſs*, Quis tatia fanda temperet a Lachrymis? *Or at leaſt wiſe who can refrain from the heavieſt Cenſures againſt this Prophane Arch-Biſhop.*

Would it not take up too much Time I could here ſhow you the Letter this Arch-Biſhop wrote to the Biſhop of *Bath* and *Wells* on this Occaſion, which would fully ſatisfie you of the Impiety of this Prelate.

Country-m. Good God preſerve *England* from a *High-Church* Prelate like *Laud!*

Obſ. Should I tell you of his *Popiſh Innovations*, *Ceremonies*, *Superſtitions*, *Pictures* and *Books* at *Lambeth* and *Croydon*, at *White-Hall*, at *Weſtminſter*, in the Univerſities of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, in the Cathedrals of *Glouceſter*, *Durham*, *Canterbury*, *Hereford*, *Winchеſter*, *Worceſter*, &c. and in *Ireland*, and in Pariſh Churches and Chappels.

Should I tell you of his Proceedings againſt Mr. *Smart*, Mr. *Chancy*, Mr. *Burket*, and divers others in the *High-Commiſſion* and *Star-Chamber*, for oppoſing his *Popiſh Innovations* in Conſecrating of Churches, Church-Yards, Chappels, Foundation Stones, *&c.*

Should I mention his *Introducing*, *Fomenting Arminianiſme*, *Protecting*, *Advancing Arminians*, and Proſecuting their Oppoſers, and all Books and Sermons againſt *Arminianiſme.*

Should I diſcover his various Attempts to Introduce direct *Doctrinal Popery*, by *Maintaining*, *Authorizing*, *Printing*, *Importing Popiſh Books* and *Errours*, his Prohibiting the Printing of New, and Reprinting of Old *Orthodox* Books againſt them, and Expunging the moſt Pregnant Paſſages againſt *Popery*, *Popiſh Errours*, *Prieſts*, *Jeſuites*, the *Pope* himſelf, *Prophaneſs* and *Arbitrary Papal Power* out of Books tendered to be Licenſed, of which there are many Examples.

Should I tell you of his preferring of divers *Arminians*, and Perſons *Popiſhly* Affected (as *Montague*, *Manwarring*, *Coſins*, and divers others to Biſhopricks, Deanaries, Vice-Chancellourſhips, Headſhips in the Univerſities, to Prebendaries, and the beſt Livings in *England* and *Ireland*, and Suppreſſing, Perſecuting thoſe who oppoſed *Popery* and its encreaſe.

His numerous Plots and Devices to ſuppreſs Preaching Lectures, and Lecturers, to keep out Godly Men from the Miniſtry, and ſubverting the *Feoffees* for Impropriations.

His endeavours to ſuppreſs the Proteſtant *Dutch*, *French* and *Walloon* Churches among us, his Invading their Priviledges, Moleſting them divers Years, and eſteeming them to be no Churches of Chriſt, nor their Miniſters to be Miniſters, becauſe they had no Dioceſſan Lord Biſhops.

Should I recount to you his many endeavours to Reduce and Reconcile us to *Rome*, his Correſpondence with *Prieſts Jeſuits*, and his concurring with them in their Deſigns and Treaſons.

I ſay, Should I tell you of theſe things at large, and bring you ſufficient and undeniable Proofs of each Article, which I can do, it would take up more time than I can ſpare from more Material Diſcourſe, and would produce matter enough to fill a large Volumn.

Country-m. Good God! And this is the Saint, Martyr

Martyr and Apoſtle of *High-Church*. Good Lord preſerve *England* from ſuch Arch-Biſhops.

Obſ. In my Writings I have always taken care to Publiſh nothing relating to particular Perſons, but what is matter of Fact, taken from the beſt Authors, as I have done in the Caſe of *Laud*. Any one may have Recourſe to Hiſtory and Records, to invalidate what I ſay, if they pleaſe; and therefore I would adviſe 'em to look in to Mr. *Grymſtones* Speech, made in Parliament, upon the Accuſation and Impeachment of *Laud*, and ſee if they don't find theſe Words; where ſpeaking of *Laud*, he ſays,

Mr. Speaker, *We all know what he hath been Charged withall here in this Houſe, Crimes of a dangerous Conſequence, and of tranſcendant Nature, no leſs than the Subverſion of the Government of this Kingdom, and the Alteration of the* Proteſtant *Religion, and this not upon bare Information only, but much of it comes before us already, upon clear and manifeſt Proofs, and there is ſcarce any Buſineſs, Grievance or Complaint, come before us in this place, wherein we do not find him intermingled, and as it were twiſted into it, like a huſie and angry Waſp, his Sting is in the Tail of every thing.*

Mr. Speaker, *He hath been, and is the common Enemy to all Goodneſs and Good Men, and it is not ſafe that ſuch a Viper ſhould be near to his Majeſties Perſon to Diſtill his Poyſon into His Sacred Ears; nor is it ſafe for the Common-Wealth that he ſhould ſit in ſo Eminent a Place of Government, being thus Accuſed. We know what he did in the Earl of* Straffords *Caſe. This Man is the Corrupt Fountain that hath Infected the Streams, and till the Fountain be Purged, we cannot expect to have any clear Channels*, &c. with abundance more you may here Read if you pleaſe.

Let the Admirers and Juſtifiers of *Laud*, Peruſe the Speech of Mr. *John Pym*, when he delivered in the Articles againſt *Laud* at the Bar of the Lords Houſe; part of which Speech, relating to the Crimes of the ſaid *Laud*, I will Read to you. Says he, *Theſe Crimes*, my Lords, *are various in their Nature, Heynous in their Quality, and Univerſal in their Extent. If you Examine them* Theologically, *as they ſtand in Oppoſition to the Truth of God, they will be found to be againſt the Rule of Faith, againſt the Power of Godlineſs, againſt the Means of Salvation.*

If you Examine them Morally, *as they ſtand in Oppoſition to the Light of Nature, to Right Reaſon, and the Principles of Humane Society, you will then perceive Pride without any Moderation: Such a Pride as that* which Exalts it ſelf above all that is called God; *Malice without any Provocation; Malice againſt Vertue, againſt Innocency, againſt Piety; Injuſtice without any means of Reſtitution, even ſuch Injuſtice as doth Rob the preſent Times of their Poſſeſſions; the future of their Poſſibilities.*

If they be Examined (my Lords) by Legal Rules in a Civil way, *as they ſtand in Oppoſition to the publick Good, and to the Laws of the Land, he will be found to be a Traitor againſt His Majeſties Crown, an Incendiary againſt the Peace of the State; he will be found to be the Higheſt, the Boldeſt, the moſt Impudent Offender that ever was; an Oppreſſor both of King and People.*

Country-m. And this is our *High-Flyers* Saint and Martyr, a ſpecial Stick of Wood. I think you have ſaid enough of this Man, to make all Honeſt Men loath his Memory. But who is this Arch-Biſhop *Sancroft*, they write of?

Obſ. He was Arch-Biſhop of *Canterbury* in Reign of King *James*, a Man of many Ver and Noble Endowments; he was a chief Inſ ment in the *Revolution:* And the Steady Gov ment of the Common People, after the Fligh King *James*, is chiefly owing to his Conduct; Aſſembled ſeveral of the Lords at the *Guild* of the City of *London*, and invited the Prin *Orange* to Town, put the *Tower* of *London* the Hands of *Proteſtants*, and thereby ſecured Peace of the Kingdom till the Convention m

In the Convention he could not Concur w all that was therein moved; and tho' he co not comply with the juſt Reſolutions of the St he withdrew himſelf in a Civil manner, a ended his Days without giving any Diſturba to the Government.

Country-m. So much for Arch-Biſhops: T next Time we meet give us your Opinion on t Book.

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